Latin squares have always been intriguing mathematical playthings – even today Sudoku puzzles show our fascination with these patterns. They are also the subject of serious mathematical study as combinatorial designs. These squares also have applications in efficient experimental design and ensuring messages are transmitted clearly over noisy channels. We give an introduction to the classical theory of how these objects are systematically constructed and the contexts in which they are applied.

Lunch will be provided for colloquium guests after the talk.